

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Lushmeadows Strategic Fuel Treatment, Phase I		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 13 and 24, T5S, R19E, MDBM and Portions of Sections 19, 30, and 31, T5S, R20E, MDBM	COUNTY	Mariposa
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Guy Anderson	PHONE	(209) 966-3622 ext. 218
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE's Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Headquarters 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mariposa Fire Safe Council is proposing a mechanical mastication and hand crew fuel treatment project in the Lushmeadows Subdivision area, starting at the intersection of Whispering Pines Road and Darrah Roads and running along the dominant ridge that parallels Tip Top Road to Wass Road in Mariposa County, California. The project consists of mechanical mastication and hand cutting treatment of brush and small trees. Treatment standards include the selective mechanical mastication (thinning, release and hazardous fuels reduction) of small trees 8 inches in diameter and less, and all brush. All residual trees in the project area that are taller than 20 feet will be limbed to a height of approximately 10 feet to reduce the ladder fuels. Post project tree spacing of young hardwoods and conifers will range from 15 to 30 feet depending on size of nearest retained tree. In areas that have rock outcrops, slopes exceeding 30 percent, and watercourse buffer zones, crews will either hand cut and feed cut material to a chipper or hand pile and burn. When all hand crew treatment areas are combined, the hand cut treatment areas total approximately two acres. The remaining project area will be mechanically masticated. This area totals approximately 148 acres.

EXEMPTION STATUS

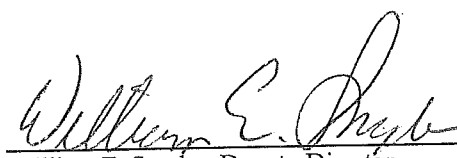
- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alteration of the Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption authorized by the CEQA Guidelines involving only minor alterations to land. Field review by state and private resource specialists confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at Madera-Madera-Merced Unit Headquarters located at 5366 Highway 49 North in Mariposa CA 95338.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



 4/14/10
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection